

City of Greenville Media Release

P. O. Box 2207 • 206 South Main Street • Greenville, SC 29602

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CONTACT: Mayor Knox White, (864) 467-4590
Nancy Whitworth, Economic Development (864) 467-4401
Dwayne Cooper, Engineering (864) 467-4400
Candace Sommer, Public Information (864) 467-4470

END OF THE RELAX INN MARKS A NEW BEGINNING FOR ADJOINING NEIGHBORHOODS

Greenville SC...City officials, staff and neighborhood supporters officially began the demolition process of the Relax Inn by taking sledge hammers and a demolition backhoe to the building, marking a new beginning for the neighborhoods in Greenville's western quadrant. In recent years, the Relax Inn site has earned the reputation of attracting the criminal element to the area, causing concern for nearby residents and impeding the development of economic opportunities in the area. The city has contracted the firm D.H. Griffin to perform the demolition work which is scheduled for completion by October 5.

In coordination with the Relax Inn's removal, the City has hired RKG, a firm from Alexandria, Virginia to develop a market study and provide recommendations on the appropriate mix of residential, commercial and office uses for the Relax Inn site and adjacent areas. The study will include the Relax Inn site, the former Greenville Hospital site and Green Avenue commercial sites as well as other key corridors that link western Greenville with downtown.

The planning will begin with a town meeting where residents will have the opportunity to provide input and ideas in the reuse of these sites. The meeting will be held on October 2 at the Pendleton Street Baptist Church at 6:30 p.m. The planners will take the ideas along with input from a 15-member Steering Committee, City staff, area businesses and other stakeholders and develop a marketing strategy that provides guidance for the type of uses that will be best supported by the market.

The redevelopment of the Relax Inn site also will complement the City's ongoing revitalization of the Green Avenue and West Greenville neighborhoods. The revitalization strategy for the Green Avenue neighborhood nears completion while the master planning process for the West Greenville neighborhood will begin within the next month.

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